

# SOUTH BEND



*Building a 21st Century City*  
MAYOR STEPHEN J. LUECKE

## Letter from the Mayor

Dear friends and neighbors,

As we approach the holidays and the end of this year, I want to thank all who have given back to our community as volunteers. From our Civic Alliance team who dedicated more than 4,500 hours to the creation of South Bend's City Plan; to those who made events like Art Beat, Sunburst Marathon, and the many community runs and walks a success; to residents who worked with their neighborhood organizations on projects like Adopt-A-Block, Weed & Seed, and Bicentennial Fire Hydrant Painting to keep our City clean and beautiful; to all who volunteer at a shelter or mission or read to a child through programs like Partner Up; to the volunteers in schools, hospitals, libraries and countless other organizations across our community, I say thank you for your commitment of time, energy, and talent, to make South Bend a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

I want to recognize a special group of volunteers whose spirit of partnership and community are helping to preserve a community treasure that may otherwise have been lost. As a restricted City budget and limited revenue are no longer enough to support the Muessel-Ellison and Ella Morris Conservatories, The Friends of the Greenhouse and the Botanical Society of South Bend have stepped in to help the City find solutions to keep this important asset open. Through their persistence and hard work, and with the help of the Historic Preservation Commission and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, they are working to develop a plan for proper care and long term sustainability for our community. The job ahead is not an easy one. As municipal budgets continue to be cut, success will rest in the commitment of these volunteers, and of the entire community, to ensure the survival of one of South Bend's historic treasures. As the Conservatories' volunteers continue to recruit members and funds, I thank them for their passion, creativity and determination to preserve South Bend's history and attractions.

As you celebrate with your family and friends this holiday season, I encourage you to take an opportunity to give back as well, through a local organization or simply by sharing with someone in need near you. Together, we can make South Bend a City of giving.

Warmest wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season,

Mayor Steve

## SOUTH BEND CITY CELEBRATION '07

You're invited to join the fun and celebrate the many features, assets and community treasures that South Bend has to offer! An entire year of fun, fantastic, and family-oriented programming will kick off on January 29, 2007! The party won't be the same without you, so keep an eye out for further announcements and details. Can't wait to celebrate!

### THIS MONTH...

Mayor's Letter  
South Bend - Open for Business  
South Bend City Celebration 2007!  
Portage Ave. - Building New Opportunities  
Christmas Tree Pickup  
New Year's Eve Fireworks Guidelines  
Adopt-A-Block Receives National Award



## SOUTH BEND - OPEN FOR BUSINESS

As part of the South Bend's on-going commitment to building and improving a business friendly environment in South Bend, the City is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County to raise the bar on efforts to grow successful businesses in South Bend. The City is funding a new Chamber position that will identify and assist South Bend businesses that have or are positioned to have a significant impact on our local economy.

Phil Damico, the new Director of Business Growth will work with Sharon Kendall, the City's Ex. Director of Community & Economic Development. On behalf of the Mayor and the Chamber, he will build relationships with businesses to determine their needs and concerns, ensure that public and private entities are responsive to those needs, identify and overcome risk factors and impediments to growth, and connect businesses to local resources and solutions.

"Recognizing that most new jobs are created by the growth of existing businesses, the new Director of Business Growth will help us establish stronger relationships with companies to further invest and create new jobs in South Bend" stated Mayor Luecke. "South Bend is committed to supporting local businesses and to helping create a competitive advantage for new development that will benefit the entire community."



## PORTAGE AVE. - BUILDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The Portage Avenue Steering Committee, in partnership with the City of South Bend's Division of Community Development and the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc., has worked to acquire key properties, located at 808-836 Portage Ave. These properties are envisioned as sites for future development as single family housing.

New development will occur in two phases: Phase 1 will consist of clearing, seeding and landscaping the site as a temporary green space. Phase 2 will be the development of the sites, which could include the construction of new single family homes that will reflect the architecture of the area and complement the redevelopment that has occurred as a result of almost \$1 million in public investment on the Portage Avenue Corridor since 1999.

In addition to the purchase of these properties, the Steering Committee has made multiple streetscape improvements along the corridor, and intersection modifications at Allen/Humboldt and Navarre improve safety, create a more pedestrian friendly environment, increase area beautification/green space, and help to better control traffic.

These projects were developed and completed through Mayor Stephen J. Luecke's Commercial Corridor Initiative and were funded through County Option Income Tax (COIT) revenues.



## CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Your old Christmas tree can be a gift to the environment! As part of Mayor Luecke's Clean City initiative, the City collects discarded, natural Christmas trees to be recycled at Organic Resources. The trees are turned into high quality mulch which is provided for free to South Bend residents, as part of our efforts to be good environmental stewards.

- **Call-in pickup** will begin on Tuesday, Dec. 26. The number to call for pickup is 235-9244.
- **Automatic pickup** will begin on Monday, Jan. 8, beginning in the northeast quadrant and working clockwise around the City. At this time, call-in will not be necessary.

**Residents are asked to follow these guidelines for safe and efficient tree pickup:**

- All trees should be placed at curbside by 6:00 AM. *Do not place trees in the street or in alleys.*
- **Please remove all lights, ornaments, and metal, including tree stands or nails, before discarding Christmas trees.** Items left on trees can injure employees or seriously damage the tree shredding equipment, leaving it inoperable.
- Artificial trees and trees containing any metal, glass, or wire, will NOT be collected and will be the owner's responsibility to dispose.
- In the event of snow, plowing will take precedence.

***For further information on Christmas tree pickup, please call the Street Dept. at 235-9244.***

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## NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

As plans are made for New Year's Eve celebrations, residents are reminded of the following restrictions on fireworks displays:

- ♦ Only adults age 18 and older are allowed to purchase fireworks, for use in Indiana.
- ♦ Private fireworks may be set off *ONLY* on the user's property, the property of someone who has consented to the use of fireworks, or at a special discharge location designated by the State Fire Marshal. *Fireworks may not be discharged on public property, such as in streets or parks, without special permits issued by the State Fire Marshal and local Fire Chief.*
- ♦ Fireworks may be used *ONLY* between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m., with the exception of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and New Year's Eve, when hours are extended to midnight.
- ♦ ***Violations can result in fines and criminal charges.***

Further information regarding Indiana's Fireworks Law is available by visiting [southbendin.gov/fire](http://southbendin.gov/fire), or by calling the South Bend Fire Dept. at 235-9255. For the safety of family, friends, neighbors, and the entire community, please celebrate responsibly as you welcome in the new year.



## ADOPT-A-BLOCK RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The City's Dept. of Code Enforcement has received the 2006 Outstanding Achievement in Code Enforcement Techniques Award for its Adopt-A-Block program, from the American Association of Code Enforcement. The Program was also selected, by the National League of Cities, as a Finalist for the 2006 Award for Municipal Excellence, which recognizes outstanding programs that have significantly contributed to the quality of life in their city.

Adopt-A-Block is part of South Bend's Clean City Initiative, and provides residents with equipment and resources to keep their neighborhoods clean. The program helps to improve the appearance of the City, ensure the water quality of our river, and preserve green spaces.

For more information on starting Adopt-A-Block in your neighborhood, please call the Dept. of Code Enforcement at 235-9486.

***Visit Our Website at [www.SouthBendIN.gov](http://www.SouthBendIN.gov)!***